

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19065C2

This legislation provides the following solutions for current problems associated with elections:

- To provide uniformity and professionalism in all elections, the authority to conduct any election is vested with the County Clerk.
- To provide voter information, County Clerks will now be responsible for the notification of all elections including legal notices, voter guides, polling place personnel and election expenses.
- To enhance predictability as to when to vote, elections will be conducted on the second Tuesday in March, third Tuesday in May, last Tuesday in August and the first Tuesday in November, as follows:
 1. All partisan races (federal, state and county) will be held on even-numbered years. Included on even-numbered years will be some special district elections to reduce the number of elections on any given date.
 2. In even-numbered years any bond or levy question, statewide ballot questions and judicial races.
 3. All nonpartisan races (city, districts and boards) will be held on odd-numbered years. Included in odd years will be the majority of special districts plus local levy, local bond and local ballot questions.
 4. Schools receive two additional dates in any year for conducting only supplemental and bond levy elections - the second Tuesday in March and the last Tuesday in August.
 5. Recall elections may be held as provided by statute.
- To increase voter participation, all elections will be held at traditional precinct polling places. The county clerk will coordinate and ensure the voter receives the appropriate ballots for all elections for each location. For example, the voter may receive a ballot for a school trustee election, city council election, recreation district, and a bond issue for a new city hall. How the respective ballots are identified will be at the discretion of the election officials.
- This election reform is about the mechanics of elections. It does not change same-day registration or absentee balloting.
- For some local taxing districts, it does change the term of office to accommodate the new voting dates.
- Effective date for Section 1 is July 1, 2009; effective date for Section 145 is January 1, 2010; effective date for the remainder of the act is January 1, 2011.

FISCAL NOTE

The legislation provides \$1,500,000 from the budget stabilization fund for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 to be distributed to the counties by formula to assist the counties in implementing the provisions of this act.

The fiscal impact to the budget stabilization fund is \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2010. For fiscal year 2011 and thereafter, the fiscal impact is \$4,100,000 from the sales tax distribution formula to the respective counties.



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